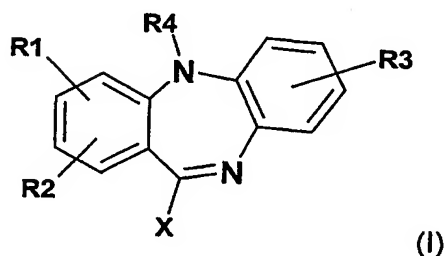
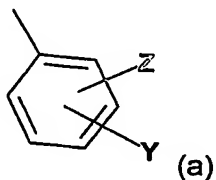


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



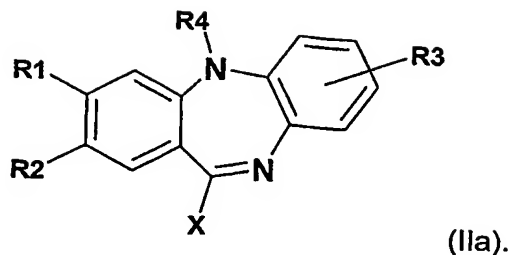
wherein R_1 and R_2 , independently of each other, represent hydrogen, or C_1 - C_7 -alkyl, or R_1 and R_2 together with the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring to which they bind form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring, which ring may optionally be substituted by one or more C_1 - C_7 -alkyl groups, which alkyl groups may also together form one or more 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered rings; R_3 represents -CN, -CO- R_5 , or hydrogen, provided that, if R_3 is hydrogen, R_4 must represent C_3 - C_7 -alkenyl or C_3 - C_7 -alkynyl; R_5 represents aryl, or alkyl being unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C_1 - C_7 -alkoxy, carboxyl or aryl; R_4 represents C_1 - C_7 -alkyl, C_2 - C_7 -alkenyl or C_2 - C_7 -alkynyl or R_4 represents C_2 - C_7 -alkanoyl; and X represents ligand (a),



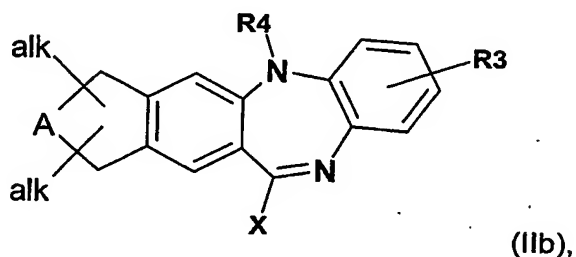
wherein Y may be in ortho, meta or para position and wherein Y represents carboxyl, C_1 - C_7 -alkoxy-carbonyl, aryloxy-carbonyl, tetrazolyl, SO_3H or $P(O)(OH)_2$; and wherein Z represents hydrogen or a substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_7 -alkyl, C_1 - C_7 -alkoxy, halogen, CF_3 , cyano and NO_2 .

2. Compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are positioned as illustrated in formula (IIa).

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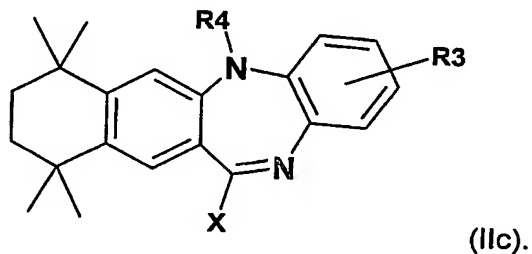


3. Compound of claim 1 of formula (IIb)



wherein alk in each case represent C₁-C₇-alkyl and A is CH₂, CH₂CH₂, or CH₂CH₂CH₂.

4. Compound of claim 1 of formula (IIc).



5. Compound of claim 1, wherein X represents p-carboxyphenyl.
6. Compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ together with the two carbon atoms on the phenyl ring to which R₁ and R₂ respectively bind form 5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; X represents 4-carboxy-phenyl; R₃ is cyano or C₂-C₅-alkanoyl; and R₄ represents C₁-C₇-alkyl, C₂-C₇-alkenyl or C₂-C₇-alkynyl.
7. Compound of claim 6, wherein for R₃ is in the para-position relative to N-R₄ in formula (I).

8. Compound of claim 6, wherein R_4 represents C_1 - C_7 -alkyl and preferably methyl or ethyl.
9. A compound according to formula (I), or a salt thereof, for use in the treatment of the human body.
10. Use of a RXR-antagonist, in particular in accordance to the definition of formula (I), in the manufacture of a medicament for delaying progression of, preventing or treating a condition or disease being associated with RXR-antagonism, in particular selected from diabetes, type-2-diabetes, complication of diabetes such as retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, and hyperlipidemia, obesity, dyslipidemia, and osteoporosis.
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in association with a pharmacologically and pharmaceutically acceptable additive.
12. A method of delaying progression of, preventing or treating a condition or disease being associated with RXR-antagonism, which method comprises the steps of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a RXR antagonist, which method comprises the steps of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or of a more preferred compound selected from the compounds according to formulae (IIc), (Ile), (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc), (IIId), (IIIe) and (IIIf), to a patient in need of such treatment, wherein said condition or disease associated with RXR-antagonism is preferably selected from the group consisting of diabetes, type-2-diabetes, diabetic complication such as retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, and hyperlipidemia, obesity, dyslipidemia, and osteoporosis.